

SOME EXPRESSIONS

OF THE LATE

ROBERT PRYOR, of London, committed to Writing
by his Brother, JOHN PRYOR, who attended him in his
last Illness.

HE had been favoured with a heavenly visitation, which he happily
joined in with.

For some months before his death, his usual state of health was altered,
and signs of infirmity appeared, which continued to increase upon him,
and at length terminated in a settled decline.

One day speaking to me about his will, he said, "Some might think
" he had given a great deal away from his children; but he was more
" afraid of their having too much, than too little: as he had seen great
" riches do much hurt, especially in our society. He wished his child-
" ren to be brought up plain, and the boys to be put apprentices to sober
" honest friends."

One time on taking leave of his son Robert, who had been up to see
him, he desired him to be a good boy, and to speak the truth, and to keep
to the plain language, and not to associate with bad boys, but chuse the
best for his companions. At another time he said, "Brother, I hope I
" do not repine, though I am afraid lest I should. I have my low
" times, lest it should not be well with me. Sometimes I think it may
" be the enemy that strives to disturb me." Speaking of his being re-
" signed to the will of Providence, he said, "What signifieth it, whe-
" ther I die now, or twenty years hence! though if I look back, my
" time appears to have been very short."

One day he said "Dear brother, do not be too anxious after the
" things of this world, for my inordinate desire to accumulate wealth,
" has been a heavy burthen to me: no one knows what I have suffered
" on that account." He further said, "His having been so solicitous
" after the world, had made him but a dwarf in religion; and that if
" it

“ it had pleased the Lord to have spared his life, he thought he should
 “ have found it his place to have endeavoured to be a more useful mem-
 “ ber in the society; and to have expended more of his income in cha-
 “ ritable uses. That the love of money, and an inordinate desire after
 “ wealth, had pierced him through with many sorrows.”

One afternoon his nephew came to ask him how he did; upon his tak-
 ing leave, after sitting some time in silence, he “ desired him to keep
 “ constantly to meetings; to love friends company, and not to launch
 “ out into the vanities of this world; nor associate with those that were
 “ likely to draw him aside. That he hoped he would make a good man,
 “ and be a comfort to his father and mother:” reminding him, “ That
 “ there would be an end, which would overtake us all, and that we
 “ ought always to be prepared.”

One time going to bed, he desired me to shut the door, saying, “ It
 “ was his desire to supplicate,” which he did on his knees, “ Begging
 “ the Lord not to leave him, but be with him in the trying moment,
 “ and grant him a safe and easy passage into his glorious kingdom; hope-
 “ ing he would accept his late repentance, which he trusted was sin-
 “ cere, though upon a dying bed!” The next morning, as I stood by his
 bedside, he spoke to me as follows; “ Brother, I have been in a quiet
 “ sleep, and had a comfortable vision: I thought I had a foresight of
 “ that glorious kingdom, where all is peace, serene, and quiet! Such a
 “ prospect as I had never before seen, and such as no tongue can express,
 “ the glory of that kingdom!”

At another time, expressing the satisfaction he had in my being with
 him, he desired “ I would not leave him when the event happened; and
 “ requested to be buried in a plain way, and to be carried into the meet-
 “ ing house, as he had seen the use of those meetings.”

One morning asking him if he was free from pain, he answered,
 “ He felt only violent oppression: that when the Lord pleased to release
 “ him, he believed he was ready, but hoped to wait the appointed time
 “ with patience: adding, he was as clear in his intellects as ever. What
 “ a favour! and that he was permitted to get home, and settle his affairs,
 “ was a great favour: but above all, that which he saw in his vision!”

He said, “ It appeared clear to him, that the less friends talked about
 “ news, and interfered in politicks, the better. He thought they did not
 “ belong to them. He used to read the news papers when at Bristol, to
 “ divert



“ divert himself, but left it off, finding his time better employed in reading the scriptures.”

On taking a little refreshment, he said, “ What a favour it is thus to be waited upon, and to have every thing this world can afford, to alleviate, or still, the pains of the body ! We have so much the more to be accountable for ! ” He desired me to give his love to several particular friends ; also to friends of Baldock and Hitchin. One evening upon my asking him how he did, he said, “ He lay pretty easy, and was quiet in his mind ; he thought he had a well-grounded hope, that all would be well with him ! That if it should please the Lord to take him into his glorious kingdom, what a happy change it would be ! ” He asked me, “ If I had any thing more to say to him, if so, I had better say it, and the next morning repeated the same,” adding, “ that it was probable he might not long be capable of speaking.” On which I inquired if he had any thing further on his mind ? He answered, “ not that he knew,” but said, “ he was quite calm in his mind, though he found hard work.”

One evening he said, “ He did not know what to think of that night ; he had prayed so often to be released, he was ready to fear lest he had offended : he should be very thankful to be released from his sufferings ; yet hoped he could say, as that good man, Isaac Sharples, had expressed in prayer at his bed side, *Thy will be done, O Lord, in earth, as it is done in heaven.* ” After this he continued remarkably still and calm, with much serenity in his countenance, taking little notice, but appearing wholly fixed on the greatest of all objects.

On the seventh day before his decease, he noticed those about him more than he had done some days before ; and his sister coming in the afternoon (whom he had often expressed a desire to see) he mentioned it to me, as a great favour, to be permitted to live to see all his near friends ; which being done, it seemed as if he had every wish gratified.

He continued in the same calm, composed state of mind, growing weaker and weaker, yet sensible to the last ; having his desire granted of an easy passage, I have no doubt into that glorious kingdom, of which, he expressed, he had a foretaste.

He departed this life, at his house in Budge-Row, the 16th of the 7th Month, 1782, aged about 37 years, and, after a solemn meeting at Gracechurch-Street, was interred in friends burial ground, Bunhill-Fields, the 21st of the same.

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O F

ROBERT PRYOR.

